

Child Welfare League of America

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

Bulletin

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December 15, 1927

"Just as a large country has various climates, so a generous mind must include numerous contradictions. To tell the truth, those who never contradict themselves frighten me. Being impossible to believe they are never wrong I fear they are always wrong, while a mind which does not pride itself on its logic may rediscover the truth."—ANATOLE FRANCE.

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE TO BE IN NEW YORK JANUARY 5 AND 6

The tentative program for the Eastern Regional Conference is as follows:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5TH

2 P. M.—South and East Halls, Russell Sage Foundation
Chairman, Mr. Albert H. Stoneman, President, Child Welfare League of America.

Topic: The Child Welfare League of America.
—C. C. Carstens, Executive Director.

Topic: How Can Child Welfare Workers and Courts Work Together Better for the Good of the Child?

(a) From the point of view of the court.
—Mr. Frederick A. Moran, Secretary, Division of Probation, Dept. of Correction, New York State.

(b) From the point of view of the social agency doing protective work.

—Miss Jessie Condit, Executive Secretary, Children's Aid and S.P.C.C. of New-ark.

7 P. M.—Dinner Meeting, Madison Square Hotel.
Chairman, Mr. Albert H. Stoneman.

Topic: A Layman's Challenge to Social Workers Answered from the Standpoint of Child Welfare.

(a) What Have We Done?
—Mr. Homer Folks.

(b) What More Can We Do With Our Present Knowledge?
—Dr. Ellen Potter.

(c) What Do We Need to Find Out in Order to Do Still More?
—Dr. Neva R. Deardorff.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6TH

9.30 A. M. to 11 A. M.—South and East Halls, Russell Sage Foundation.
Chairman to be Announced.

Topic: Mental Hygiene Aspects of Child Welfare.
—Dr. Lawson G. Lowrey.

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INSTITUTION NEWS

Discontinuance of the BULLETIN'S free mailing list will take effect January 1, 1928. This is necessary because of the reduction of an appropriation which for three years has made it possible to send the BULLETIN to several hundred church and other child-caring organizations. If those on the free list wish to receive the BULLETIN after the publication of this issue, it will be necessary to remit \$1.00 to cover one year's subscription. Make checks or money orders payable to the Child Welfare League of America, 130 East 22nd Street, New York.

ST. LOUIS ATTEMPTS TO GUIDE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

"What can we do," asked the Institutions and Agencies Committee and the Day Nursery Committee of the St. Louis Community Council, "to avoid having sick, overstimulated children and worn-out and irritable cottage mothers and foster mothers because of the desire of well-intentioned organizations to give 'orphans' a Merry Christmas?"

The St. Louis group was not content merely to ask the question. It also set about answering it. At the meeting held November 21st a "Statement of Principles of Christmas Giving" was adopted.

The plan is to give as much publicity as possible to the statement not only in the newspapers but through radio talks and letters to Service Clubs, fraternal organizations, churches, Sunday schools, women's clubs, etc. St. Louis institutions and day nurseries are busy preparing lists of equipment and play apparatus which they need, as an aid to persons interested in making gifts.

The statement, as adopted, is as follows:

"Surprising as it may at first appear, it is nevertheless true that certain very unfortunate results often follow the unconsidered and indiscriminate giving of the generous hearted public at Christmas time, especially the giving which has for its object the children in the care of institutions, day nurseries, or other child-caring agencies.

"From a knowledge of these results, and with the hope that they may have some part in directing the great outpouring of generosity at Christmas time into

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"CHILD WELFARE IN NEW JERSEY"

(U. S. Children's Bureau Publication No. 175)

Reviewed by MISS ABIGAIL F. BROWNELL, Director
County Agency Dept., Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania.

The efforts of the citizens of New Jersey over a period of almost 60 years to achieve a plan of administration that would co-ordinate the work done by state institutions and agencies, and develop it according to good standards to meet the needs of a state as a whole, are related in this Bulletin of the Federal Children's Bureau describing their study made in 1925. Early experiments, including alternate and sometimes joint public and private enterprises, preceded the organization in 1918 of the State Department of Institutions and Agencies to which were assigned both supervisory and administrative duties. The Board of Children's Guardians, which had been in operation since 1899, was transferred to the new Department and continued to perform the same administrative functions. It was established "to have the care of and maintain a general supervision of indigent, helpless, dependent, abandoned, friendless and poor children who may now be, or who may hereafter become, public charges." The children are its legal wards, committed to it by Overseers of the Poor or Courts and paid for from county funds. They were cared for by placement in foster homes or institutions, boarded with their own families or, since 1913, left with their own mothers under a plan familiarly known as Mothers' Aid.

Historically, the first plan of care for children was boarding them with foster mothers. Then it was discovered that for the same amount of money some of them could remain more happily with their own mothers and so they were boarded in their own homes. In 1913 a law was enacted enabling the state to pay allowances to mothers to keep their children with them, thus extending care to more children in their own homes and limiting the necessity of commitment to the Board of Children's Guardians in order to secure financial assistance. But paradoxically the amount of allowance to mothers was both inadequate and much less than the sum that could be paid to the same mothers when their children were placed with them on a boarding basis, and so, although it is an accepted fact that children generally develop better with their own families, New Jersey, along with too many other communities, undervalues this type of care, and is unwilling to pay their mothers as much for care for them as it pays to foster mothers or institutions.

The Board of Children's Guardians spent only \$26 per year per child for administration and supervision, educational requirements for its staff were low—many of its members had less than High School—there was only

one visitor for every several hundred children and there were in care many defective children. Considering these facts, it is amazing that essentials in good child care, such as reception work, foster home finding, which observed certain elements of good standards, supervision that included at least several contacts a year, clothing that was individual rather than uniform, were adhered to. And it is not surprising that children were not usually studied and planned for individually, behavior problems understood and treated, health thoroughly looked after and education provided according to their abilities. The story told of the care given to thousands of children by so small a staff reflects great credit on this staff. But one wonders whether the people of New Jersey would provide such limited equipment if they knew how inadequate it is for the job that is there to be done. It is to be hoped that as the State Department of Institutions and Agencies makes further progress in its community plan for the state, it will also see that standards of case work in those departments working with families and children are raised to a creditable level.

INSTITUTE FOR CHILD GUIDANCE

The effort to gain greater understanding of the problems of childhood and thereby lessen adult blundering in dealing with behavior and personality disorders gathers momentum as time goes on.

One of the most recent developments for promoting further study and research in the field of mental hygiene for children is the establishment of an Institute for Child Guidance in New York City. The new project is sponsored by the Commonwealth Fund.

Upon the basis of the experience gained during the Commonwealth Fund's five year program for the Prevention of Delinquency, four major objectives have been outlined for the Institute:

1. Further study and research in the field of mental hygiene for children, with special reference to the causes and methods of treatment of behavior problems.
2. The provision of clinical experience and practical training in the organization and operation of child guidance clinics for psychiatrists and graduate psychologists.
3. The provision of field training in psychiatric social work, with especial emphasis on child behavior problems, for students of psychiatric social work at the New York School of Social Work and the Smith College School for Social Work.
4. The provision of adequate clinical facilities for the thorough study and treatment of a selected group of children presenting problems in behavior or personality. Cases will be accepted from parents, schools, and various co-operating agencies.

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1, column 1)

11 A. M. to 12.30 P. M.—Section Meetings.

Section I: Mental Hygiene Aspects of Care of Children in Institutions.

—Mr. Everett H. DuVall, Chairman, The Children's Community Center, New Haven, Connecticut.

Section II: Mental Hygiene Aspects of Care of Children in Families.

—Miss Catherine Sanders, Chairman, N. Y. Nursery and Child's Hospital.

(a) How Can the Mental Hygiene Clinic, the Child Welfare Agency and the Foster Home Harmonize Their Behavior in the Treatment of Children?

—Mrs. Sophia Robison, Hebrew Sheltering Guardian Society, New York.

(b) How Can Conflicting Points of View of Teacher and Social Worker be Reconciled in the Treatment of the Problem Child in School?

—Miss Rhea K. Boardman, Public Education Association, New York.

(c) How Can Social Workers Help Parents to Understand Behavior Problems in Their Own Children?

—Mrs. Sidonie Gruenberg, Child Study Association.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

2.30 P. M. to 4.30 P. M.—Four Round Table Meetings, New York School of Social Work, United Charities Building, 105 East 22nd Street, New York.

1. Supervision and Statistics, from the Standpoint of Public Agencies.

—Miss Mary Labaree, Chairman, Pennsylvania State Dept. of Public Welfare.

2. Methods of Evaluating Health Service in Institutions.

—Elsa Ueland, Chairman, Carson College.

3. Analysis of a Case Record with Emphasis upon Its Inherent Suggestions for Further Treatment.

—Miss Grace Marcus, Chairman, N. Y. Charity Organization Society.

4. Responsibility of a Children's Agency for Planning Its Work on a Community-wide Basis.

—Edwin D. Solenberger, Chairman.

Participating in this round table will be representatives from a council of social agencies or community chest, a rural county organization, a community in which there is neither a council of social agencies nor a county organization.

Final programs will be mailed to all members later.

Miss Grace C. Denhardt, formerly with the U. S. Government Vocational Education Department and more recently with the Los Angeles County Charities, has accepted a position as superintendent of the Church Home for Children, Los Angeles. This is an Episcopal institution.

ST. LOUIS ATTEMPTS TO GUIDE THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

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lines that will be productive of greater happiness to these children, the representatives of the undersigned institutions and child-caring agencies have adopted the following set of principles as a guide for Christmas giving to children:

"WE BELIEVE

"1. That children in the care of institutions and other social agencies are not different in essential respects from other children, and that what applies to other children in regard to Christmas giving and receiving applies to these children.

"2. That children in the care of institutions and other agencies should have the individuality and personal intimacy which should be associated with giving.

"3. That indiscriminate giving to children by strangers destroys the sense of individuality and personal intimacy which should be associated with giving.

"4. That in most institutions and child-caring agencies the Board of Directors and executives make adequate provision for the children at Christmas time, and that all supplemental provision by outside individuals or organizations should be made only after consultation with and upon the advice of those in charge.

"5. That parties given by individuals or organizations at some place outside the child's home or institution, or other familiar surroundings, should not be generally encouraged.

"6. That in almost all institutions and agencies there is a need for equipment and play apparatus which cannot be met through the regular income of the agency. It would be most helpful to have the interest and the money of persons and organizations desiring to do something for children at Christmas time directed toward the securing of larger and more substantial gifts which would give pleasure and happiness to children, and add something of beauty to their lives, not only at Christmas time, but throughout the year, and perhaps for several years to come.

"7. That when individuals, organizations or other groups desire to do something for the happiness of the underprivileged children of the community at Christmas time, they get in touch with the children's institutions and child-caring agencies through means of the Christmas Bureau.

"This statement was adopted at a joint meeting of the Institutions and Agencies and Day Nursery Committees, of the Children's Department of the Community Council, November 21, 1927."

In a classified list of Primary Furnishings, Apparatus and Materials compiled by Marion Paine Stevens of the Ethical Culture School, there is a list of makeshift materials which will be published in an early issue of the BULLETIN. It seems wise not to give publicity to this list until the time comes (as come it will) when only the ghosts of the 1927 Christmas gifts can be found in most institutions.

THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

President—ALBERT H. STONEMAN, Detroit
Vice-President—A. T. JAMISON, Greenwood, S. C.
Secretary—MISS GEORGIA G. RALPH, New York
Treasurer—ALFRED F. WHITMAN, 41 Mt. Vernon St., Boston, Mass.
Executive Director—C. C. CARSTENS, New York

REPORT ON BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE

In spite of holding the Southern Regional Conference during Thanksgiving week, the attendance was large. Interest did not lag from the first session to the last. Discussions flourished from breakfast until bedtime.

It was gratifying that the institution and the child-placing agency found so much common ground on which to stand. The conflicts of other years did not appear. The discussion of institutional problems occupied much of the time, including an address at the banquet Monday evening. It is quite evident that in the South we have reached the point where no one claims that his own method is best for every child. On the other hand, we are asking in each case, "What is best for this child?" It was notable that there were in attendance a few case workers, graduates of our best schools for social work, who are employed by and giving all their time to institutions. Special emphasis was given to the health problem in the institution.

No more profitable session was held than that in which Dr. Carstens interpreted the fundamentals of the Child Welfare League upon the subject of child-placing. An entire morning was devoted to this topic. Better work will undoubtedly be done in our section as a result of this discussion.

The chief address at the banquet was upon the subject of Training for Social Work. Dr. G. P. Wyckoff, head of the Social Work Department at Tulane University, New Orleans, was the principal speaker. It looks as if the three schools for social work in the south will soon have all that they can do. The demand for trained workers is increasing continually. It was apparently difficult to get up a sharp argument even on the relationship between the Children's Agency and Family Case Working Agency. The general principles that underlie these activities were agreed upon by those who led the discussion.

Practically all members of the conference were entertained in the same hotel, and all meetings were held therein. The consensus of opinion was that the 1927 Southern Regional was the best children's conference held in this section up to date.—DR. A. T. JAMISON.

TOBY JUST SHOWS THEM

Once more the adolescent comes into her own. There has been so much concentration on the runabout that we were in a fair way to forget about the soul wracking difficulties of adolescence. The following excerpts from a news item appearing in the New York "World" December 1st should serve as a warning to child-caring agencies which have been somewhat neglectful of their teen-age children.

The item is also a shining example of the way in which mental hygiene problems may be portrayed in simple language.

"Not only did Toby's father and mother make her go to a school where she was not talked about sufficiently, but they wouldn't let her go to the movies or visiting as much as she wanted to, and—final indignity—they forbade her joining in the family games of fan-tan.

"It was absurd. Toby was fourteen and looked sixteen or seventeen. If Hannah, her eighteen-year-old sister, was allowed to play fan-tan, why wasn't Toby?"

"Tuesday afternoon Hannah came home to find Toby on the dining room floor, her hands and feet tied. The rug was up, the furniture down and two knives and forks were missing. Toby's hands and face were scratched, and in her mouth, evidently meant as a gag and not sustenance, was a carrot—a large, new carrot, not very much damaged.

"She told a thrilling story of a six-foot Negro burglar who had knocked her down, bumped her head on the floor and ransacked the house. There had been, she said excitedly, a 'terrific struggle.'

"Police were notified, and when her father came home, there was a great how-do-you-do. Toby was petted, her wounds were bathed, she was given all the candy she could eat, and she was allowed to play fan tan. Life could hold nothing except a few headlines, and these were coming.

"Yesterday Capt. Philip Sebold, who has been on the Newark police force twenty-five years and knows his carrots, entertained pretty, dark-haired Toby and her father and mother. Toby limped rather conspicuously. The Captain questioned her two hours. 'You know,' he said, with a truly terrible frown, 'that burglars don't pull up rugs, they don't steal two knives and forks and leave the rest, and they never gag people with carrots.'

"Toby was so frightened she forgot to limp. Finally she confessed the robbery had taken place only in her imagination.

"'Well, I'll tell you how it was, Captain,' she said. 'I'm just tired of being nobody. They think I'm still a child and haven't grown up. I wanted to go to the movies, and visiting with mother, and to play fan-tan. I wanted to be somebody when I went back to school, so they'd talk about me.'

"'When I came home from school yesterday, nobody was there. So I decided I'd have some attention paid to me. First, I pushed the furniture around and pulled up the rug. Then I took some silver from the buffet in the dining room and hid it under the cellar

stairs. And I got the carrot and I scratched my face and hands, bumped my head against the medicine chest in the bathroom, and when my sister came, pretended I was unconscious.

"'Have you,' asked Captain, 'been reading about the Lilliendahl case?'"

"'Every word of it,' answered Toby. 'That's where I got the idea of the Negro.'"

"He turned to Toby's mother.

"'Don't you think you're a little behind the times, in not letting your daughter play fan-tan?'"

"'No, but my daughter's way ahead of them,' answered the harassed mother.

"After she had made and signed her confession Toby was escorted home by her parents. Last night the door was barred to interviewers and the telephone hung up on them. There was stern silence over the place. It seemed evident Toby was NOT playing fan-tan."

"JUSTICE OR DIGNITY"

The article herewith quoted appeared under the above headline in the November 30th issue of *The Nation*.

Whether or not it is reasonable to ask public school officials to make exceptions in school routine in order to meet objections on the part of individual parents is, we grant, a debatable point.

But if family life is the normal way of life despite the many evidences of failure and disillusionment, there is no possibility of debate on the shocking injustice of removing a child from his own parents and placing him in an adoptive home for the reasons given in this article.

"For 'improper guardianship' children may be removed from the custody of their parents; and 'improper guardianship' conjures up pictures of cold and hungry children, of children bruised and beaten, or foolishly pampered. But when ten-year-old Russell Tremaine was taken from his parents in the State of Washington and put in a detention home, and when later he was given to a private family for a six-months' 'trial' to be followed by adoption if he should 'suit' there was no question of beatings or foolish pamperings or lack of nourishment. The Tremaines are decent, law-abiding citizens of the State; they belong to a non-resistant religious sect, the Elijah Voice Society; they are absolute pacifists and as such they were opposed to having Russell take part in the flag salute at school—and they 'refused to acknowledge that the State had a right to compel school-children to be indoctrinated with the principles of nationalistic patriotism and flag worship.' They kept Russell at home and proceeded to educate him according to their own beliefs. And the sovereign State of Washington, in return, put Russell's father in jail and carried Russell himself off to a detention home.

"This incredible proceeding took place two years ago. The Tremaine parents have tried to visit their son and are not permitted to see him—or, now, even to know where he is being boarded out. His father wrote of him:

"The supervisor of child-placing . . . said little Russell was hungering for someone to love him. That at the 'home' for some time he would eat little and lay awake nights and sob and was developing a nervous twitching of the face and they were afraid he might lose his mind. This of course was intense agony for me to listen to.

"The sovereign State of Washington, in the dim way peculiar to governments, seemed to have an inkling that torture was being unnecessarily inflicted on certain of its citizens. Judge Hardin of the Juvenile Court wrote to Mr. Tremaine that if he would promise to send Russell to a private school or to public school at least for the first eight grades, the boy would be returned to his parents. But the Tremaines were consistent in their faith. They wished, they declared, to send Russell to school; they preferred public schools to private; but they asked to be assured that he would not be forced to take part against his will in a ceremony that was contrary to his own faith and that of his parents; and finally they could not recognize the authority of the judge or the courts that would urge such a course.

"And here, for the moment, the matter rests. Russell is completing his six months' trial. He is liable for adoption at the end of this period. Judge Hardin, representing the sovereign State of Washington, is evidently a little at a loss. And the Tremaines are still deprived of their son. Government, not for the first time, finds itself in the unpleasant dilemma of having to be cruel in order not to admit of making a mistake, or sensible and merciful and at the same time frank to admit error.

"The State of Washington seems to fear for its dignity. But dignity suffers only through blindness or ignorance or wilful injustice. And dignity is nothing against the spectacle of a boy deprived of his parents, of parents deprived of their child, when they are willing and eager and capable of bringing him up as a useful, intelligent citizen and an honest man."

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

HOW KNOWLEDGE DRIVETH AWAY FEAR—A Morality Play for Children, by Albert W. Whitney. Education Division of the National Safety Council, 120 West 42nd Street, New York, 1927. 16 pp.

The motive of this little play is the transition in a child's life from the period when fear is the mechanism which protects him from danger to the later period when knowledge and reason come into action. The rising curtain shows a dance of the Fears—Fear-of-Crossing-the-Street, Fear-of-the-Fire, Fear-of-the-Dark, and the rest—who have been guarding the safety of the two children, Tom and Mary. Presently the children's mother introduces Knowledge with her children, Alertness, Courage, Independence, and others, and in the end the Fears go trooping happily off, except little Fear-of-Mice, who decides that Mary cannot do without her.

PROGRESS OF MEDICINE IN 1927

The December issue of *Hygeia* lists the following as outstanding contributions to scientific medicine during 1927:

- Liver diet in pernicious anemia.
- Isolation of the trachoma germ.
- Progress in the accumulation of knowledge about the effects of sunlight on the human body.

In discussing the discovery of the efficacy of liver in the treatment of anemia the article in *Hygeia* states that it cannot be credited to any single man or time. Instead, it is the outcome of scientific research over a long period of time. However, Minot and Murphy of Boston finally proved that the use of large quantities of liver in the treatment of pernicious anemia produced better results than any other method of treatment.

The trachoma germ was discovered by Noguchi, the famous Japanese physician on the staff of Rockefeller Institute. A definite means of inoculation against trachoma has not as yet been developed. However, through isolating the germ, Dr. Noguchi has blazed the trail which will lead to ultimate control of this disease.

Dr. Noguchi has already made valuable contributions to the scientific field through his research work in the control of yellow fever. In November, he left New York for Algeria where a yellow fever commission is at work on the problem of control on Africa's West Coast.

Investigators of four nations have collaborated in research that has proved that the exposure of living tissue to ultra-violet light gives rise to a substance which is the forerunner of the vitamins. Unquestionably the taking of cod liver oil which contains vitamins A and D and exposure to the sun's rays will prevent rickets.

ULTRA-VIOLET RAY PENETRATES NEW GLASS

The council on physical therapy of the American Medical Association has officially approved the new type of window glass which does not filter out the ultra-violet rays of the sun. It is these ultra-violet rays which contain the health-giving properties so valuable in the treatment of rickets and tuberculosis.

Institutions caring for infants and young children, as well as convalescent homes and sanatoria, will be interested in reports on the use of the new "Vita" glass in *Sunlight*, the English Journal of Light and Truth devoted to promoting a more widespread appreciation of the therapeutic value of sunlight.

The first use of Vita glass in England was in the Monkey and Reptile Houses at the Zoological Gardens. Later, it was used in certain sections of the green houses at Kew Gardens.

According to the editorial comments, the monkeys and reptiles showed remarkable progress in growth and vitality due to the increase in ultra-violet ray trans-

mittal. Experiments indicate lettuce grown under Vita glass at Kew Gardens prove that the vitamin content is increased and that flowers show astonishing growth.

The conclusion is drawn that the success which follows the use of Vita glass in such ways as indicated will accelerate its use in child-caring institutions and convalescent homes.

"When we have Kew Gardens and the Zoo flourishing, the editor remarks, 'then we may see that there are some thousands of children who should also be similarly served.'

"The records of monkeys under Vita glass are admirable but any child is worth a wilderness of monkeys as Shylock himself would have been the first to admit."

STATE STUDY COURSES FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

The Institute for Public Welfare held at the University of North Carolina in July has resulted in two adult education projects which are to be carried out this winter.

The University Extension Division at Chapel Hill is giving a correspondence course dealing largely with social problems of the family. College credit is given upon the satisfactory completion of the work.

For those who do not have time for the college course, a reading course has been outlined by the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare. Announcements regarding the plan have been sent to county superintendents of public welfare and other interested individuals.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Welfare is giving a three months' course for persons already employed or who desire to be employed as social workers by the State Department. Both lectures and supervised field work are included in the course.

CATHOLICS IN CALIFORNIA ISSUE REPORT

The Catholic Welfare Bureau of the Diocese of Los Angeles and San Diego has just published its eighth Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1926.

The Welfare Bureau gives service in eight counties of southern California. Income is derived from Community Chests in twelve city districts, from special campaigns put on in Catholic parishes in non-chest districts or in districts where the Bureau is not affiliated with the Community Chest and from private donations. The total budget for 1926 was \$197,575.

In the section of the report covering the Children's Aid Department the following paragraph appears: "Children are placed only after all means of adjusting antagonisms and all means of keeping the family together have been exhausted. We do not aim to aid divorces by accepting children whose own parents can and should care for them nor do we break up any home for economic reasons."

STAFF NOTES

During the month of November, the Executive Director of the League gave many different kinds of field service and has traveled over a considerable stretch of territory.

Early in the month Mr. Carstens participated in the Conference of Social Work at Mitchell, S. D. From Mitchell he went to Tulsa, Oklahoma to make final arrangements for a study of children's agencies which the League will begin early in January. One day was spent in Rochester where the League is conducting a demonstration in connection with the Children's Aid Society.

November 21 and 22 were spent at the Southern Regional Conference at Birmingham. Following the conference, Mr. Carstens visited member agencies at Atlanta, Greenwood, S. C., Clinton, S. C., and Memphis. Nashville and New Orleans were also included in the southern itinerary. While at New Orleans, the port from which Mr. Carstens sailed for Havana to attend the Pan-American Conference, he gave a lecture at Tulane University.

The extension director has given all of her time during November to developing the program outlined by the Executive Committee of the League for raising the remainder of the 1927 budget and devising ways and means for helping member agencies raise their quotas.

The other members of the staff have spent most of the month in New York on more or less routine tasks. These have included finishing reports on the St. Louis survey, consultation with representatives from several church groups, assembling material for the BULLETIN and handling the many "odds and ends" which are part of a co-operative agency's job.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS

LOVEJOY SUCCEEDS BRACE AS SECRETARY OF THE NEW YORK CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Owen R. Lovejoy, for twenty years secretary of the National Child Labor Committee, has been appointed secretary of the New York Children's Aid Society. Charles Loring Brace, the retiring secretary, had served in that capacity for over thirty-seven years. Mr. Brace succeeded his father, Charles Loring Brace, Sr., the founder of the Society and its first secretary.

William Church Osborn, President of the Society, gave the following statement to the *New York World*:

"I cannot overestimate the great work which Mr. Brace has done for the children of New York. His distinguishing characteristic has been his constant recognition of the interests of each child as a separate person needing individual care and individual aid. I deeply regret that he has found it necessary to leave his work."

AN EXECUTIVE PAYS TRIBUTE TO A DECEASED BOARD MEMBER

Its simplicity of expression, its freedom from platitudes and its analysis of the trustee's philosophy of life make the following eulogy written by the executive of a League member agency a tribute of rare beauty:

"He was first an explorer and a scientist. Conservative in holding on to what he knew was right, nevertheless he always sought with marvelous range *new knowledge*, new ideas. We know about his exploring in the Canadian Rockies, his wide knowledge of minerals, his support of scientific societies. The same attitude of exploration and scientific discovery he carried into his work with us. Our school must be the best school that we could make it because we had an opportunity here *for an educational laboratory*. This we must never be blind to. He felt it was an obligation. We must make this the best school we can, working together.

"Then he was a realist. He knew it was not enough to wish for a fine life—to yearn with uplifted feeling for a beautiful and successful College. Work must be done. Foundations must be laid. Details must be given thought. Our structure must be built with the materials of this earth: ice boxes, drainage, the right care of cows, how to make bread, keeping office records, right accounting, and all the rest. But his spirit gave a certain honor to these earthy materials, as the tools and the resources of the Lord, to be used for something greater. *He illumined the practical.*"

CHILD LABOR DAY—1928

The National Child Labor Committee announces the following dates as the special days upon which to make known facts regarding child labor in this country:

Synagogues—January 28

Churches—January 29

Schools and Clubs—January 30

The National Committee from time to time "goes down" but during its twenty-one years it has never "been out." As long as children anywhere in the United States under 14 years may be employed in factories and canneries and work from nine to eleven hours a day, the Child Labor Committee must remain on the job.

ENCLOSURES

(Sent to Members Only)

CHILD MARRIAGES IN ERIE COUNTY.—A Study by the Juvenile Protective Department of the Children's Aid Society, Buffalo, N. Y.

PAMPHLET FOR BOARDING MOTHERS.—Issued by the Henry Watson Children's Aid Society of Baltimore.

The Ohio Society for Crippled Children will hold its Annual Meeting at Columbus, January 10th, 1928.

SANTA CLAUS COMES TO TOWN

Santa Claus is having a considerable amount of expert assistance this year in making his selection of toys for the youngest generation. The "new" schools of progressive education, the organizations interested in the education of parents and a few manufacturers and retailers are focusing attention upon the kind of toys and play materials children enjoy and should have in order to "learn through experimentation."

If, by any chance, Santa brings a miniature Pennsylvania railway system complete in every detail to one of these households in which mother has "gone psychological," you can be sure that five year old Johnny is merely a "dummy" recipient. Santa's real purpose is to brighten father's Christmas! And if any one doubts this statement all he needs to do is to go to the toy department of most any of the big stores and observe the pleasure with which dapper young salesmen put mechanical wares through their paces for the pleasure of groups of male shoppers.

Organizations and individuals sometimes prefer to make gifts to a particular cottage or for a special age group. In such instances, the money is occasionally given to the executive and the choice left to him.

As some purchases of this character may not be made until after Christmas, suggestions based upon visits to certain of the toy shops in New York and the exhibit of the Child Study Association may be helpful even at this late date.

Experts on the care of runabouts agree that play equipment and materials should be selected with an eye to promoting "muscular co-ordination, purposeful activities and emotional stability." The "tools" with which to accomplish these rather high-sounding objectives are simple and dovetail perfectly with a child's natural inclinations.

A superintendent or cottage mother with \$20 to spend for new play equipment for nursery children from 18 months to four years could buy the following articles:

1 set of large blocks consisting of	
20 units	
12 half units	
10 double units	
8 quadruple units	
4 switches (curved pieces)	
12 pillars	
10 cylinders	
6 pairs of triangles	
Total cost.....	\$10.00

NOTE.—These blocks are of unpainted white wood and can be scrubbed.

1 set of smaller floor blocks for the younger children.....	\$2.50
1 indoor trapeze and swing which fastens on any door.....	5.50
1 Blox that Lox Train.....	1.75

NOTE.—5 Flat cars, an engine and caboose that can be pulled but will not upset.

\$19.75

If \$10 more were available it would be possible to get:

1 Set of musical instruments for rhythms which includes	
Cymbals with wooden handles	
Triangle	
Hand blocks (1 set)	
Xylophone	
Total Cost.....	\$6.20

1 Toddler's Utility Kit containing	
Assortment large size colored beads	
Box of very large crayons	
25 sheets manila paper	
Large colored ball	
Peg board	
Tinker pull	

NOTE.—The tinker pull "tinkles" as it is pulled about the floor.

Total Cost.....	3.50
1 Set of small color cubes.....	.35

\$10.05

How many institutions keep toys and play materials within the reach of the smallest children? The nursery school people have been pioneers in promoting the idea that children should be given an environment suitable to their needs and then be permitted to enjoy it.

Learning to make selections of necessary materials for carrying out projects, and to put things away; and gradually gaining respect for the rights of others are essential elements in child-training. When all the children's belongings are cached in the closet under the stairs and the door safely locked, there is not much chance for development in these directions.

Materials and toys for the 4 to 6 age group have been listed* under the following classifications:

- I. Physical Exercise and Outdoor Play
- II. Dramatic and Imitative Play
- III. Toys of Transportation and Industry
- IV. Materials for Construction and Creation including simple carpenter tools.
- V. Construction toys
- VI. Blocks

Dolls, playhouses, dishes, laundry equipment, toy money, scales, come under II. Noah's Ark and a Humpty Dumpty Circus also fall in the second classification.

The construction toys include a set of Stabuilt blocks. These blocks have holes through them and can be fastened together with wooden pegs. Any number of interesting things can be made with one set. (Price \$4.00.)

The superintendent who has been given money to buy pictures can get some bargains from the National Child Welfare Association, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York. The Association puts out beautiful hand colored posters illustrating some of the best-loved fairy tales and other themes of interest to children. At this season of the year posters which have been used for exhibition purposes can be purchased at reduced prices. When framed, all travel stains and shop-worn expressions disappear.

* List prepared by Children's Book and Play Service, Inc.

